

To: Diane Williamson, Director of Community Development, Town of Bristol, RI

From: John Amitrano, AVP for Facilities and Capital Projects, Roger Williams University

Date: 7/30/2026

Subject: Roger Williams University Master Plan and Campus Update, Summer '26

Introduction

Roger Williams University (RWU) is moving forward with several projects this summer. Per our Campus Master Plan submitted in February of 2023 we are continuing with Academic Renewal and continuing the design process for our proposed Campus Center. In other areas, several small CAPEX projects are in progress related to campus infrastructure, classroom improvements, access control, and dining.

Campus Center

RWU has engaged the Architectural firm Architectura in the programming and design of our proposed Campus Center. The project is now in the early Construction Document and preconstruction review. Fuss & O'Neill have been engaged in our Site and Civil due diligence and landscape design. Initial assessments have been completed, and integration with building design is in progress. Once we secure the full funding and philanthropy to finance the project, the proposed building will be constructed at the current location of the mail room. It will be 4 stories with the ground level split between parking and program. At ~ 85,000 square feet the structure will house Admissions, Student Programs Leadership & Orientation (SPLO), the radio station, e-gaming, retail, a café, Student Clubs and Organizations and a conference and meeting/event spaces. With multiple event spaces leveraging views of Mount Hope Bay the Campus Center will be the focal point for RWU's student and community engagement. A construction start date has not been established.

Academic Renewal

Brewster Thornton Group Architects has worked with RWU to develop a multiphase renovation of the old SECCM Engineering Building. This year, phase 4 is underway, with the addition of a Cyber Lab, New restrooms in the 2nd floor, a renovated Environmental lab with a research and classroom component within, and the second-floor corridor will be finished out. Fire sprinkler systems will continue to be expanded through the structure. Phase five is slated for 2027, we plan on completeing the project with the fit out of a Vivarium, completion of common space renovations including new stair structures and the expansion of fire sprinkler systems to the north section of the building.

The Histology Mobile Classroom has been completed and is in operation.

BL Industries has been engaged in programming and design of facilities supporting two academic departments, the Gabelli School of Business (GSB) and the School of Humanities, Arts and Education (SHAE). This coordinated two phase effort will improve educational facilities at four locations, ELS, Global Heritage Hall, Gabelli, and Fine Arts "Muffin". The work focuses on interior and exterior modifications and rebranding with the outcome being improved and modernized academic facilities and importantly the exchange of operational location between SHAE and GSB.

Student Life

RWU is engaging with Feingold Alexander Architects to begin the design of interior renovations to Cedar Hall. Imagined to be a 5-phase project, Phase 1 will focus on creating a new entry, adding a couple of public restrooms, and renovating lounges at the core of the building.

Small CAPEX Projects

RWU has engaged Gale Associates in the design of two replacement foot bridges. One to be installed behind GHH and MNS replacing the existing deteriorated structure and the other to replace the temporary platform traversing the marsh on the shell path. While both are priorities, the first to be completed will be the structure behind MNS by early 2027.

Campus Infrastructure

Working with Fuss & O'Neil, RWU has developed a multi-year multi-phase campus power upgrade where we are moving from 4.8 kV to 12 kV. The main trunks were completed in 2016, but the project was paused. This year's work focuses on the installation of 2 new transformers and electric service at Bayside 1 and 4.

Summary

We are looking forward to working with the Town of Bristol in the execution of these projects. Thank you for being great partners.

John Amitrano

CC: Gloria M. Arcia, Ed.D.

Brian G. Williams, DM